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MALTESE ORTHOGRAPHY, PRONUNCIATION AND PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS

The notes which follow are intended to assist the reader in the pronunciation of place names and other Maltese words occurring in the text. Certain letter symbols occur in the Maltese alphabet which are not found in English, while others have pronunciations very different from the English ones.

The special symbols involved are as follows:-

H, h. Where this letter occurs alone, it is strongly aspirated. The nearest equivalent in English is the "h" in "house" but in Maltese the aspiration is even stronger. Thus Mellieha will be pronounced Mellie-ha.

GH, gh. This is, in effect, a single letter and represents the Arabic 'ain. It is now almost silent in standard Maltese but is sounded, as in Arabic, in some rural dialects.

Ċ, ċ; Ġ, ġ; Ż, ż. A dot placed over these consonants indicates a softening in pronunciation. Thus "c" occurs in Maltese only in loan words where it retains the pronunciation of the original language, while "ċ" represents "ch" as in English "church", "G" is hard as in English "garden", "ġ" soft as in English "jam", "Z" is pronounced as "ts" in English "its", "ż" as "z" in English "zebra".

Consonants with "non-English" values are:-
J, j pronounced as "y" in English "yet".

Q, q in standard Maltese has assumed a glottal value but is still pronounced "k" (as in Arabic) in some local dialects.

X, x is universally pronounced "sh" as in English "show".

There is some slight variation in the pronunciation of vowels but the following values are predominant:-

A,a	as	"a"	in English	"far"
E,e	as	"e"	in English	"bet"
I,i	as	"ee"	in English	"feel"
O,o	as	"o"	in English	"lock"
U,u	as	"oo"	in English	"boot"

When followed by j, "e" and "a" have special values:-

-aj- pronounced as "i" in English "ice"
-ej- pronounced as "e" in English "they"
-ie- pronounced as in English "pier"

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Space does not permit of any but the most cursory mention of the significance of the great range of Maltese place-name elements. As a result of the help received from Professor J. Aquilina of the Royal University of Malta the authors were able to increase their understanding of Maltese life and landscape by using to some extent this and other philological evidence. The reader will similarly gain in understanding by an appreciation of even a few place-name meanings.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

Dalam, a good deal of this better land has been sterilised by the construction of a large pumping station, but a small pocket of intensive potato-growing occurs before the sea is reached. In the Wied has-Saptan, the transition is marked by a belt of marshy land carrying canes, bullrushes and grasses which are tended and 'cropped'. Below this lies a second small alluvial area also largely under potatoes. This district as a whole possesses a greater variety of physical and land-use conditions than any other in Eastern Malta.

From Qala San Gorg to Benghisa Point, a narrow coastal lowland has been completely taken out of cultivation by settlement growth and by commercial and military installations. The slopes behind this zone are traversed by a series of shallow wieds in which lie narrow strips of wasteland. All dry-farmed crops are represented in this hilly country, even to a few vines grown near the southern coast in a strangely exposed position.

In this small region is exemplified the major problem which besets the Maltese agricultural community and which complicates the patterns of land-use and farming practice in the island. New, well-surfaced roads serve Hal Far and Kalafrana, but between these arteries lies a neglected and relatively remote farming area. Distances involved are small, particularly when the attraction of non-rural life pulls people away from the land. However, as noted elsewhere, the same distances become exaggerated in their effect of isolating the country-dwellers who remain. The dichotomy of town and country is thus perpetuated.

GENERAL

The main facts underlying the regional differentiation of Maltese agriculture may be summarised as follows. While structure and topography control the general distribution of these cropping combinations, important regional differences result from variations in weather and micro-climate. Soil controls, in the main, coincide with those of structure and outcrop, but slope, as affecting removal and accumulation, together with the widespread traditional practice of transporting soil to artificial fields, break up the simple geological pattern.

Farming types in Malta must be identified against a background of socio-economic change. Commercial production is the rule, but considerable variations result from differing degrees of linkage with markets. Socially, this is paralleled by differences in the extent to which rural communities are affected by urban desires and emulations. Proximity to, or remoteness from town life are most important.

Wasteland is spreading most rapidly on the remote and physically hard lands. The flight from the land is slower where it is more productive. General deterioration is most widespread on lands of medium quality where the attraction of town life is strong. On the immediate fringes of the built-up areas, conditions are by no means uniform. While in some cases market gardening provides a particularly intensive form of land use, in others encroachment of roads and buildings produces a jumble of building sites, abandoned fields and a few surviving patches of cultivation. Around the main conurbation as delimited in Fig. 97, lie many pockets of true urban farming. In many of these, as in the case illustrated by Fig. 125, the jostling together of stock-yards and houses and fields, both abandoned and cropped, shows the town triumphant.

Agricultural Regions of Gozo

The physiographic divisions already indicated in Chapter I and shown in Fig. 4 are suitable for a regional analysis of agricultural practice in Gozo. Printed maps of Gozo bear few local place-names and thus it has been necessary to devise the special nomenclature used in the present section and illustrated in Fig. 98.

[See P. 31-A -- Analyst]
[See P. 199 -- Analyst]

2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
EZ6 Malta EZ6

[p. x]

An Introductory Note on Maltese

197 Maltese is a distinct language, which is morphologically related to North African Arabic but draws much of its vocabulary, syntax and idiom from Sicilian.[1] This difficult language is spoken by all classes, but it did not become an official language of the law courts until 1934, when it replaced Italian. As it has only been a written language for little more than 100 years, it does not yet have a rich literature.

• 104 In order to help the reader with the Maltese names and words that appear in the text, the following is given as a short guide to their approximate pronunciation.[2] In general, vowels have much the same sound as they do in Italian. The following consonants are pronounced as indicated: *ċ*: *c*hair; *ġ*: *g*entle; *g*: *g*ift; *h*: silent; *ħ*: aspirate; *gh*: the *ghajn*, is usually silent; *j*: *y*ear; *q*: glottal stop; *x*: *sh*ine; *ż*: *z*ebra; and *z*: boo*ts*.

[1] Joseph Aquilina, *Papers in Maltese Linguistics* (Valletta, Royal University of Malta, 1961), p. 180.

[2] For the pronunciation of Maltese consult: Joseph Aquilina, *The Structure of Maltese* (Valletta, Royal University of Malta, 1959), pp. 1–17.

3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

female children are from Valletta and Sliema Government Elementary Schools, the male from the Government Elementary School and the Lyceum at Valletta, and include some of the students at the University.

The adult males have been grouped as follows:—(1) Malta, (2) Gozo. The Malta group has then been subdivided into Urban Districts; Rural Districts exclusive of Siggewo and Zurrico; Siggewo; Zurrico; sufficient measurements having been taken at the two latter villages to make statistical treatment of value (Table II). The adult females have been divided into (1) Malta, (2) Gozo. Malta has then been subdivided into Urban and Rural Districts (Table III). Unfortunately, sufficient women were not measured at any one village to make further subdivision practicable.

The individuals measured include among the men representatives of all social classes; among the women the lower social grades are chiefly represented. The men include professional men, gunners, militia, government messengers, men doing short sentences, paupers, and by far the largest class, "men in the street." The women include teachers, pupils at night schools, eighteen prisoners, patients in hospitals, paupers, and, again the largest class, any peasant woman who was not too frightened to be measured. All those who were either born of Maltese parents abroad, or although born in Malta are not of pure Maltese parentage, have been rejected. It is impossible in all cases to be quite certain, especially in the neighbourhood of Valletta. The measurements were taken in accordance with Martin's definitions (33); those on the femur follow Pearson (34). In working out the constants, the methods discussed in the Anthropology of Cyprus (37) have been followed. The limit of plotting selected has been such that the observations fall in from 15 to 20 groups. In head-lengths, for instance, this condition is fulfilled if the series be divided into 2 mm. groups. In order not to lengthen the report few comparative figures have been given.

For convenience of reference measurements have been referred to by their initial letters, which are given in brackets after each in the following list:—

A.—*Skulls.*

Ophryo-occipital length (O.O.L.).	Basi-alveolar length (B.A.L.).
Glabello-occipital length (G.O.L.).	Upper facial height (U.F.H.).
Greatest breadth (G.B.).	Facial breadth (F.B.).
Minimum frontal diameter (M.F.D.).	Orbital breadth (left) (O.B.L.).
Bizygomatic breadth (Biz.B.).	Orbital breadth (right) (O.B.R.).
Nasal height (N.H.).	Orbital height (left) (O.H.L.).
Nasal breadth (N.B.).	Orbital height (right) (O.H.R.).
Basi-bregmatic height (B.B.H.).	Palatal length (P.L.).
Basi-nasal length (B.N.L.).	Palatal breadth (P.B.).

3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

B.—*Living.*

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Glabello-occipital length (G.O.L.).	Upper facial height (U.F.H.).
Greatest head breadth (G.B.).	Total facial height (T.F.H.).
Minimum frontal diameter (M.F.D.).	Nasal height (N.H.).
Bizygomatic breadth (Biz.B.).	Nasal breadth (N.B.).
External orbital breadth (E.O.B.).	Internal ocular breadth (I.O.B.).
Bigonial breadth (Big.B.).	

The following indices were calculated on the living :—

Cephalic index (C.I.).	Total facial index (T.F.I.).
Upper facial index (U.F.I.).	Nasal index (N.I.).

On skulls, owing to the fact that it was impossible in the majority of cases to associate cranium and mandible, the total facial index was not calculated. The following additional indices were, however, worked out :—

Vertical index (V.I.).	Orbital index (left) (O.I.L.).
Mandibular index (M.I.).	Orbital index (right) (O.I.R.).

In a number of cases it was found necessary to work out the *significant difference* between two measurements. The method employed was described by the writer in a short paper on Cyprus, where it was shown that stress could be laid on the difference if it was greater than three times its own probable error. In order to avoid an excessive amount of figures, only significant differences have actually been tabulated. The symbols used are as follows: the Greek letter delta, Δ, signifies *difference*; epsilon, with a subscript delta, ϵ_Δ, means *error* of that difference. Measures, places and series are referred to by their initial letters, thus

	Δ C–V	ϵ_Δ
G.O.L.	1·93	± 0·63

means that the difference in the glabello-occipital length between the Chapel of Bones and the Valletta crania is 1·93, with a probable error of 0·63. At a glance it is often difficult to tell whether such an error is significant; we have therefore tabulated the difference divided by its probable error, using at the head of the column the $\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon_\Delta}$ symbol. In the particular case referred to above $\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon_\Delta}$ is 3·06, and the difference is therefore significant. Owing to the necessity of preparing the data for publication in a comparatively short time, it has not been possible to work out as many correlations as might have been advantageous. A small number have, however, been worked out. Wherever it was possible to do so—that is to say, in the case of indices—the *coefficient of variation* method has been used, the formula employed

6: Beeley K-5 (1957-1958) 1959 EZ6 Malta EZ6

OOO and the Graph.

NB: Typographical Note.

●104 128 In Maltese orthography the aspirate or hard 'h' is distinguished from the inaspirate or mute 'h' by the addition of a second bar in the capital letter and a bar through the up-stroke of the small letter. For ease of typing the writer has taken the liberty of omitting the second bar in the capital H and of adding a bar through the lower small letter - i.e. 'h'. Similarly the letter 'ain is represented 'gh'.

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6:Beeley K-S (1957-1958) 1959 EZ6 Malta EZ6

SECTION 6: CASE STUDIES

*159 128 This section is divided into three parts:

PART 1. Thirteen Case Studies of representative farmers and herdsmen in Malta and Gozo. In each Case a general discussion emphasises important particular features against the total background of farming in the Islands. Each Study concludes with a Summary[47] of the farmer and his farming classified under the following headings: A - Land; B - Utilisation; C - Livestock; D - Capital; E - Labour; F - Production and Sales; G - Husbandry; H - General. The adoption of a standard system facilitates comparisons of any one Study with all the others.

[104] The examples chosen include[48]

CASE I (Pawlu): A Gozitan large-scale goats' milk producer with a considerable land-holding.

CASE II (Ġużepp): A goats' milk producer with subsidiary cash-cropping.

CASE III (Wardu): A goats' milk producer.

CASE IV (Wistin): A large-scale goats' milk producer with some land.

CASE V (Anġlu): A landless, urban, small-scale goats' milk producer.

CASE VI (Gaetu): A milk producer with a considerable land-holding.

CASE VII (Wenzu): A goats' and cows' milk producer with a small land-holding.

CASE VIII (Niklaws): A working partnership of five brothers with diversified production.

CASE IX (Antnin and Ġakbu): A long-established partnership of two unrelated farmers now engaged in cows' milk production.

CASE X (Ġamri): An arable farmer in partnership with a brother and engaged in diversified production.

CASE XI (Pietru): An arable farmer mainly concerned with irrigated produce.

CASE XII (Ċenzu): A cows' milk producer and part-time village weighman.

CASE XIII (Toni): A part-time arable farmer and caretaker.

CASE I (herdsman) and CASE X (arable farmer) are given more detailed consideration as examples of the two main branches of agriculture.

PART 2. Cases XIV to XXII comprise studies of farmers and others who operate large tractors and other heavy agricultural machinery. These illustrate the discussion, in Section 2, of the place of such heavy mechanization in Maltese farming. An exhaustive study was made of CASE XIV to which particular attention is drawn as it emphasises a number of points made in the general text of the report - especially those concerning the place of the younger generation of farmers today.

6:Beeley K-5 (1957-1958) 1959 EZ6 Malta EZ6

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Part 5... List of Malta Government Departments and other official sources which have produced annual or other periodical reports during the past twenty-five years (B/99 - 163),

Part 6... List of Censuses and official Statistical Publications of a periodical rather than special nature 1800-1959 (B/164 - 181),

Part 7... List of some of the special reports produced by the United Kingdom and Malta Governments from time to time since 1800, classified into major subject divisions (B/182 - 278),

Part 8... General alphabetical list of books, articles and other items of a non-official nature, but including cross reference to some official reports where identification is thereby facilitated (B/279 - 664).

NOTE: Throughout this volume items to which reference is made are quoted by their number in the bibliography as B/12; or B/357, Vol.I; or B/83 (1957), p.65; etc.

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Other ABBREVIATIONS used include:

C.E.R.C.	H.M. Colonial Economic Research Committee.
Chev.....	Chevalier (a Knight of the Order of St. John).
Cmd.....	Command.
C.O.....	Colonial Office.
C.O.S.	Central Office of Statistics.
Dept.	Department.
E	English.
Ed	Editor.
esp	especially.
Govt.	Government.
G.P.O.	Government Printing Office (now Printing Section), Malta.
H.M.S.O.	London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
inc.	including.
I.	Italian.
L.....	Latin.
L.P.	Letters Patent.
M.	Maltese.
misc	miscellaneous.
MS, MSS	Manuscript, Manuscripts.
Order	The Order of Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.
O.U.P.	Oxford University Press.
pub.	published.
R.A.I.	Royal Anthropological Institute.
R.C.I.	Royal Colonial Institute.
R.I.I.A.	Royal Institute of International Affairs.
S.E.A.	Agrarian Society - Malta (formerly Società Economico-Agraria).
S.G.M.	Scottish Geographical Magazine.
trans.	translated.
v.	see.
var.	various.
Vol.	Volume.
unpub.	unpublished.

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Part 1. List of some collections of material on the Maltese Islands.

(1) ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA, Malta : Collections of archives, MSS, documents, plans, etc., relating to the Church in Malta. (v. also Cathedral Archives - some 500 items, and the Archives of the Inquisition - some 500 items).

(2) BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE, Paris : v. especially material on the Order (classified under French history).

APPENDIX 4 : The LAY APOSTOLATE

794 Of the more than two dozen movements which now form the Lay Apostolate in the Maltese Islands (v.B/81) five of the more prominent organizations are shown in the table by their present distribution and by the date, where known, of their foundation in each parish. Numbers of confraternities and third orders, and numbers of churches in each parish are also included.

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Malta Catholic Action - Young Men ..... CY
" " " - Young Women ..... CG
" " " - Men ..... CM
" " " - Women ..... CW
Society of Christian Doctrine (N.U.S.E.U.M.) - Men ..... MM
" " " " " - Women ..... MF
Legion of Mary, number of Praesidia in each parish ..... LM
Holy Name Society ..... AM
Young Christian Workers ..... YCW
Confraternities and Third Orders ..... Co
Churches ..... Chs
Date of foundation of Parish ..... Date
Parishes where a movement has no branch ..... .
" " " " " a branch but date of its appearance in that parish not known ..... B

In CY, CG, CM, CW, MM, MF, AM, YCW, numbers (e.g. 38, 10) indicate date of appearance of branch (i.e. 1938, 1910, etc.)

No information ..... ?

MB - Information derived in large part from B/81.
- List arranged by increasing size of farming element of the working population (v. Section 1).

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PARISH	Date	CY	CG	CM	CW	MM	MF	LM	AM	YCW	Co	Chs
Valletta 1	1585	B	25	58	B	10	10	2	55	55	11	8
" 2	1587	B	B	B	B	B	.	10	.	B	6	10
Cospicua	1584	31	48	57	.	08	08	.	.	56	8	5
Senglea	1581	30	.	30	.	16	B	1	.	.	9	4
Vittoriosa	1090	B	B	B	B	B	B	.	B	.	7	6
Cospicua	1913	37	39	45	43	33	10	4	40	.	2	3
Sliema 1	1878	32	31	33	58	.	.	9	B	.	4	3
" 2	1918	.	B	58	B	.	.	2	.	.	2	3
" 3	1940	41	55	41	B	B	B	10	.	B	3	5
Floriana	1844	27	B	50	53	07	26	3	26	B	5	4
Pawla	1910	28	B	28	28	10	10	4	48	48	2	4
Marsa	1913	B	B	B	B	09	09	1	.	51	.	3
Hamrun	1881	26	34	42	47	07	12	7	32	48	.	7
Msida, Pieta	1867	31	31	56	.	09	09	2	B	B	4	4
St. Juliens	1891	45	44	45	48	?	.	2	.	.	8	2
Balzan	1855	B	56	31	57	B	B	4	B	.	4	?
Luqa	1634	51	51	51	.	B	.	.	.	.	4	?
Birkirkara	1436	32	?	B	57	B	B	8	31	48	8	10
Tarxien	1592	37	B	?	.	09	.	2	.	.	5	4
St. Venera	1918	45	37	45	50	34	34	1	.	.	2	4
Qormi 1	1436	B	B	.	B	?	?	.	.	.	7	8
" 2	1935	35	35	57	.	14	?	?	30	B	3	3
Birkebbuga	1913	?	?	44	.	37	24	.	31	.	1	?
Zabbar	1615	45	45	46	52	09	.	5	47	.	6	3
Marsaxlokk	1949	.	.	.	.	45	45	.	49	.	1	1
Zejtun	1436	52	35	B	55	12	B	.	B	55	5	?
Lija	1594	B	50	58	.	52	53	2	29	.	3	5
Naxxar	1598	.	.	.	.	32	33	5	32	.	4	?
Marsaxlokk	1897	.	58	.	.	50	50	.	52	.	2	?
Zurrieq	1436	32	30	47	40	26	28	.	29	54	6	?
Ghaxaq	1628	.	.	.	.	56	07	.	B	B	3	4
Attard	1575	.	.	B	.	21	21	2	.	.	4	?
Mosta	1800	B	B	44	48	B	B	5	.	48	9	?
Zebbug(M)	1436	32	33	44	49	11	15	.	28	.	7	10
Ghajnsielem	1855	B	B	.	.	.	B	1	.	.	2	4
Gudja	1436	.	45	.	51	15	15	.	33	.	4	4
Qrendi	1818	B	B	.	.	B	B	.	B	.	5	7
Kirkop	1882	48	48	.	.	52	.	.	44	.	3	?
Naxxar	1436	47	40	B	.	35	31	1	36	48	8	5

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
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Note on Maltese Transliteration

The letter *x* in Maltese is pronounced like the English *sh*; *q* is a hard guttural. A dot over *c* and *g* (*ċ* and *ġ*) indicates that those letters are then to be pronounced respectively like *ch* in "chair" and the soft *g* in "giant."